

Summary of the December 20, 2010 Public Information Session Regarding HS-8

Supervisor Waters opened the meeting with introductions and a brief review of the actions that have occurred to date regarding the search for a site to locate HS-8 in the Ashburn/Broad Run area. A number of county supervisors were in attendance, as well as members of the school board.

Dr. Adamo, Executive Director of Planning and Legislative Services, gave a presentation on what a possible configuration of a high school would look like on the National Conference Center site and what challenges and issues would need to be worked out if this proposal moved forward. Dr. Adamo's presentation can be seen [here](#).

After Dr. Adamo's presentation, Supervisor Waters asked for input and comments from those attending. Many people commented and had questions. While many people spoke out in favor of the proposal, there were numerous concerns about the effect of the high school location on traffic, noise and the environment. Some speakers asked if this was the only possible site being considered. Supervisor Waters answered that this was not the only site being considered, but it was the only one that could be talked about publicly at this point. One suggestion was to move the stadium from the proposed layout to a location more internal to the site, further away from existing homes. Others were concerned about the cost, and while it was pointed out that an earlier proposal to convert Belmont Ridge Middle School to a high school would probably be the costliest option, at this point it would be difficult to gauge the cost of this proposal, as the land has not been bought, nor the necessary, definitive engineering studies conducted. Others suggested that traffic studies for the proposed high school be done and compared to what traffic impacts a by-right development would be, so that all possible traffic impacts could be considered. Another concern expressed was that the high school program might overtake the middle school on a shared campus. However another speaker, a teacher experienced in working on a shared middle school-high school campus (Seneca Ridge and Dominion), said that such a set up is useful because the schools can share facilities, there are options for middle schoolers to take advanced courses at the high school, and the transition from middle school to high school is less stressful because rising 9th graders are already familiar with the school and possibly some of the teachers.

After comments and questions from the public, Supervisor Waters gave an overview of the next steps that would need to happen. An offer has been made for the land, but has not been purchased. The School Board is currently considering the schools Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and will vote on that at a special January 4th meeting. The Board of Supervisors will be considering the countywide CIP between January and April, when it is anticipated that it will come to a final vote, along with the FY12 budget. The public will continue to have opportunities to speak on this issue at any upcoming school board public input session and at the Board of Supervisors public input sessions each Monday before its regular Tuesday business meetings. Click [here](#) to see the School Board's meeting calendar and [here](#) to see the Board of Supervisors meeting calendar.